THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No instructions are necessary at this stage as the Government have been advised to contest the said judgment before the Supreme Court by way of filing Special Leave Petition under Article 136 of the Constitution with a prayer for stay of operation of the judgment.

Smuggling of heroin and hashish from Pakistan

850. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a notable increase in smuggling of heroin and hashish from Pakistan into India;

(b) if so, what are the details of the seizure made by the Drug Enforcement Agencies during the last one year;

(c) whether there is any proposal for the coordination between the Indian and U.S. Drug Enforcement Agencies, including training of Indian officials in the United States; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Reports received indicate that the Indo-Pak. border continues to be vulnerable to smuggling of heroin and hashish besides other contraband goods. During 1987, about 2,292 kgs. of heroin and about 5,560 kgs. of hashish were seized in India, where the source/origin of the drug was reported to be, Pakistan.

(c) and (d) An Indo-US Working Group on Narcotics has been constituted under the auspices of the Indo-US Joint Commission to intensify and enlarge bilateral cooperation between the two countries in combating drug trafficking and drug abuse. Training has been identified as an area of co-operation with particular emphasis on training of trainers. Offers of training of Indian officials in the United States as and when received are considered on merits depending upon the training objectives and suitability to Indian conditions.

Introduction of identity cards in Border Areas of Rajasthan

851. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for the introduction of Identity Cards in selected border areas of Rajasthan has recently been introduced;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) how many Identity Cards have actually been issued todate;

(d) what is the difference between the census statistics of population of these tehsils and the Identity Cards issued so far; and

(e) whether any Pak nationals have been identified in the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have approved a Pilot Scheme for issue of identity cards in four selected tehsils in four border districts of Rajasthan, which is under implementation by the State Government. The scheme is aimed at checking infiltration and anti-national and anti-social activities in border areas. Under this scheme identity cards are proposed to be issued to permanent residents, temporary residents and visitors separately, Public servants carrying duly authorised official identity cards and foreign nationals having a valid passport/visa and/or other valid travel documents will be exempted. The scheme is centrally funded.